

PALM BEACH

COUNTY

- structure
- functions
- services

Foreword

This booklet has been prepared as a service to voters by the League of Women Voters of West Palm Beach and the League of Women Voters of Delray Beach. It describes briefly the structure of our County and its many functions and services.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and functions on national, state and local levels. The League often takes a position on issues, but never supports political parties or candidates.

We hope that this survey will give you information and answer questions you might have about Palm Beach County, and thus enable you to participate more actively in our County government.

We wish to thank the County officials for their courteous and invaluable service in helping us compile "Palm Beach County — structure, functions, services."

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WEST PALM BEACH
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELRAY BEACH
FLORIDA

Table of Contents

	Page
FOREWORD	Inside Front Cover
INTRODUCING THE COUNTY	2
Chapter	
I GENERALLY SPEAKING	3
History, Boundaries, Population	
II POPULAR CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT	4
Who May Register, Where to Register, Primaries, General and Other Elections.	
III ADMINISTRATION	5
County Commission, Departments, Boards.	
IV TAX LEVIES AND EXPENDITURES	7
Tax Officers, County Budget, Charts.	
V PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES	11
Engineer, Roads, Zoning, Airports.	
VI ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	13
Law Enforcement, Courts, Correctional Institutions and Agencies.	
VII PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE	16
Location and Departments.	
VIII EDUCATION	19
Boards, Budget, Enrollment, Teachers.	
DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES	22
FLORIDA COUNTIES AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS	24
THIS IS THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS	Inside Back Cover

The County ~

The County is a political subdivision of the State, created by the State Legislature for administrative purposes. Some of the functions of the County are: execution of the policy of public education, construction and maintenance of local public roads and bridges, collection of taxes, law enforcement, administration of justice, elections, and administration of school and welfare services.

The County may be given authority to perform proprietary functions such as the operation of water control districts, sewer and water systems, airports and hospitals.

The County does not have a charter as does a city and does not pass ordinances except where specifically given authority by the Constitution and statutes.

The State Legislature has the power to change County lines and to establish new Counties, but the Constitution prohibits the Legislature from changing County seats except in case of malfeasance or misfeasance.

County citizens elect their own County officers. The Governor has power of recall and to fill vacancies.



CHAPTER I

Generally Speaking

In 1822 the two counties forming the State of Florida were divided into four counties: St. Johns, Escambia, Jackson and Duval. Subsequent divisions followed and the area now known as Palm Beach County was first part of St. Johns, then Monroe, Mosquito, St. Lucie and Brevard Counties in that order. Finally in 1874 the Palm Beach County area became part of Dade County with the county seat located at Juno. In 1909 Palm Beach County was established as the forty-seventh county of Florida, and West Palm Beach was named as the county seat.

History

The present boundaries were set in 1925 and enclose 2,684 square miles of land and water. The neighboring counties are Martin County to the north, Broward to the south and Hendry to the west. Palm Beach County is the largest of Florida's 67 counties in area.

Boundaries

The 61.8-inch average yearly rainfall provides an abundant water supply. Lake Okeechobee, located in the western part of the county, is the third largest lake completely within the United States and is an important segment of the cross-state waterway. Lake Worth is a salt-water lake and has a federal and state maintained deep channel. In addition to numerous smaller lakes, there is an arterial canal system used for irrigation and drainage of farm lands.

Water Resources

The largest sugar and celery crops in the state are produced in the Everglades area. The county's extensive agriculture also includes many flower and vegetable farms as well as approximately 50,000 head of beef cattle and 17,000 dairy cows.

Farming

According to the 1960 census, Palm Beach County is the seventh most populous county in the state. The population of the county is 228,106, a 98.9% increase over the 1950 figure. Of the total population 23% is non-white. About 83% of the people live in urban areas.

Population

In the decade following 1950, the potential labor force increased from 51,915 to 97,200 persons. The major categories of employment are: agriculture; tourism; manufacturing; transportation; communication; public utilities; construction; trade, wholesale and retail; finance,

Employment

Migrant Workers

insurance and real estate. Employment in trade and manufacturing has increased by 5% during the past ten years, while agricultural employment decreased 8%. Approximately 20,000 migrant workers come to Palm Beach County — more than one-fifth of Florida's total migrant farm labor population.

Municipalities

There are 37 incorporated cities and towns in the county. Services provided by the local governmental units include: police protection (35 departments); fire protection (9 paid fire departments and 21 volunteer departments); parks and recreational facilities; libraries (13).

CHAPTER II

Popular Control of Government

Political Parties

There were 91,034 registered voters in the county as of May, 1962. The Democratic party has 68,409 registrants, the Republicans, 21,279, and 1386 are registered as Independents. Each political party is entitled to an executive committee made up of one man and one woman from each of the 80 precincts and an additional man and woman from each precinct having an official registration of more than 1,000 voters in their own party.

Who May Register

Any citizen of the United States 21 years of age or over who has been a resident of Florida for one year and of Palm Beach County for six months is eligible to register. Everyone registering is required to state under oath whether or not he is a freeholder (owner of real property) and this information is recorded in the registration books. Naturalized citizens must present certification of naturalization when registering. Absentee registration is permitted for military personnel and their spouses if they are not stationed in Florida.

Where to Register

The office of the Supervisor of Registration is located in the County Office Building, 810 Datura Street, West Palm Beach. The registration books are open every weekday except for the 30-day period before and five days following an election. However, in some areas of the county, persons have been deputized to register voters, so that voters may register closer to their homes. Registration is permanent if the elector votes every two years.

**Supervisor
of Regis-
tration**

The Supervisor of Registration is a constitutional officer, elected for a four-year term. He is in charge of the registration books and takes care of the absentee ballots for those physically disabled or who are to be absent from the county on election day.

The five County Commissioners and the Supervisor of Registration make up the Election Board, which appoints the precinct officials for an election.

In order to vote in a primary, a voter must register as a Democrat or as a Republican. Because the primary is the means by which the political parties nominate candidates, Democrats vote only for Democratic nominees, and Republicans for Republican nominees. Independents may not vote in party primaries.

The first primary election is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of even-numbered years. A candidate must receive a majority vote to win the party nomination. The second primary or "run-off" election follows three weeks later if no candidate receives the majority of the votes cast by his party. The two leading candidates compete.

The general election is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. County, state and federal officials are elected and amendments to the State Constitution are usually offered to the voters at this time.

Bond elections are for freeholders only and are concerned with county financing. A majority of the freeholders must vote in order to make the election valid and it takes a majority of those voting to carry the measure. Referendum elections approve or disapprove resolutions of the Florida Legislature.

**Election
Board**

Primaries

**General
Elections**

**Bond and
Referendum
Elections**

CHAPTER III

Administration

The State Constitution provides for a County Commission consisting of five members. Each commissioner represents one of the five county districts, but is elected by the county at large. Districts are created as equally as possible on the basis of population and area. Each commissioner serves four years. In order to qualify for office, a commissioner must be over 21 years of age, a

**Board of
County
Commissioners**

United States citizen, have been a resident of the State of Florida for one year and of Palm Beach County for six months and have never been convicted of a crime or felony.

Meetings

The County Commission meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Special sessions may be called by the chairman, who is selected by the Commission itself, and who also presides at each meeting.

Powers and Duties

The State Constitution gives the Board of County Commissioners the power to levy taxes, make appropriations and authorize bonds. The Commission also has the power to appoint all personnel under its supervision and appoint boards to perform specific functions.

Employees

The County Commission employs a county attorney, county engineer, county physician, director of the county health and welfare department and the supervisors and personnel of the following departments:

Departments

Health and Welfare Department	Zoning and Building
Industrial Information Service	Purchasing Department
Road and Bridge Department	Airports Department
Parks Department	Right of Way Department
Accounting Department	Mosquito Control
County Homes Department	Civil Defense
Engineering Department	Veterans Service
Voting Machines	

Personnel Policy

Each department head selects his personnel and uses his own system of recruiting, training, promotion and discharge. County employees participate in the State and County Officers and Employees Retirement System and in Social Security. Health and Welfare Department employees are considered State employees under the State Merit System.

Boards

The County Commission appoints the unsalaried members of the following boards: Zoning Commission, Contractors Examining Boards and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

The Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, who also serves as Clerk of the Circuit Court (see Chapter VI, Courts), is a constitutional officer and is elected for a four-year term. He serves as clerk and accountant for the County Commission, is auditor and recorder of the county and appoints the Comptroller, who is responsible for accounting procedures.

CHAPTER IV

Tax Levies and Expenditures

The Tax Assessor is a constitutional officer elected for a term of four years. It is his duty to determine the valuation of all real estate and other property for the purposes of taxation. The expenses of his office are paid by fees provided for in the Florida statutes, which are based on a percentage of assessments.

**Tax
Assessor**

Assessments are made on the basis of square footage, age, location, physical state, quality, etc. Records are open to the public. Appraisals for assessments are totalled and submitted to the County Commission on the first Monday in July. The County Commission sits as a Board of Equalization during the month of July. Assessments at present are made on an estimated 60% of market value. Applications for the \$5000 Homestead Exemption prescribed in the State Constitution must be filed with the assessor on or before April 1st of each year.

Personal property tax assessments are based on filed returns or the assessor's estimate of the value of household goods, commercial equipment and inventories if no return is filed by April 1st each year. Intangible tax assessments are made on a taxpayer's January 1st holding of stocks, bonds and bank balances.

The Tax Collector is an elected officer and serves a four-year term. He is responsible for the collection of all taxes; the advertising and selling of certificates for delinquent taxes; automobile, boat and airplane registrations; and occupational licenses. Taxes are due and payable on the first day of November and are considered delinquent after April 1st of the year following the year in which they were assessed.

**Homestead
Exemption**

**Personal
Property
and Intan-
gible Taxes**

**Tax
Collector**

**Tax Date
Due**

There are twelve general taxing areas in the county and six special districts. All areas contribute equally to the general county fund, Board of Public Instruction, and the Central and South Florida Flood Control District.

**Taxing
Areas**

The six special tax districts include three hospital districts, the Jupiter and South Lake Worth Inlet districts and the Port of Palm Beach. The Lake Worth Inlet is also known as the Boynton Inlet. The Pahokee Hospital District serves Pahokee and the northwest part of the county.

**Special Tax
Districts**

The Belle Glade Hospital serves the southwest section of the county and the municipalities of South Bay and Belle Glade. Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton and neighboring municipalities are in the Bethesda Hospital District.

Port of Palm Beach

The Port of Palm Beach is administered by a three-member Board of Commissioners elected to office for terms of four years. The port manager, superintendent and comptroller are appointed by the Port Commissioners. Operation and maintenance costs of 173 acres, ten miles of railroad track, two warehouses, two slips, seven wharves and fire equipment are covered by port revenue and the port district tax. The federal government maintains the jetties and the deep channel. The Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization maintain offices at the Port of Palm Beach. The Corps of Engineers is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the ship channel and turning basin at its proper depth. The Port of Palm Beach district also owns a barge facility located on Lake Okeechobee near Belle Glade.

Budget

Each spring various departments under the control of the County Commissioners estimate expenditures for the following fiscal year. These figures are submitted to the comptroller who assembles them into the anticipated budget for the general fund. The finally accepted budget (after public hearings) is correlated with the assessed valuations submitted by the assessor and the tax millage is then set for the general fund. The Board of Public Instruction, Central and South Florida Flood Control District and the special tax districts also submit their required millage to the County Commissioners.

Chart I Explanation

Chart I, following, shows how the total budget of \$36,052,813 was estimated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1962. Almost two-thirds of the money goes to public schools, 29% for departments under the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners, and approximately 5½% to the special taxing districts.

Chart II Explanation

Of the total \$36 million county expenditures, \$18,578,542 is received from property taxes. Total non-exempt valuation in the county for 1961-62 was \$850 million. Taxes on this property vary by taxing area from \$20.40 per \$1000 valuation (after homestead allowance) to \$25.92 per \$1000. This variation by area is shown on

Chart II. Breakdown of tax by taxing district is also shown.

The difference between the \$18½ million received from property taxes and the \$36 million budgeted comes from state sources (racing tax monies and some motor fuel taxes); licenses and permits, excess fees, fines and forfeitures, airport receipts, interest and forwarded funds. A more detailed discussion of the school funds is found in Chapter VIII — Education.

**Revenue
Sources
Other Than
Taxes**

CHART I — BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Oct. 1, 1961 — Sept. 30, 1962

\$36,052,813

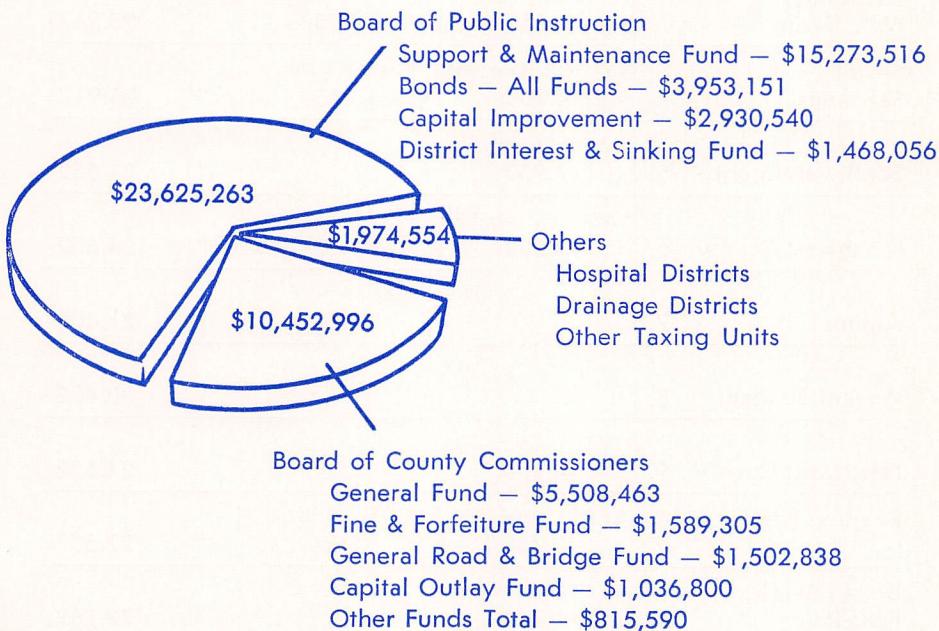


CHART II — MILLAGE RATES, 1961

MILLAGE RATES (mills) LEVIED COUNTYWIDE

County Commission	6.892
Board of Public Instruction	12.61
Central & South Fla. Flood Control	.90
Total (Base)	
	20.402

Special Tax Districts and Millage Rates in Areas

AREA	Code No.	Hospital Districts +	Port & Inlet Districts +	Base	TOTAL MILLS
Lake Park, Riviera Plm. Beach, W.P.B.	1.		Port of P.B. Dist. 1.265	20.402	21.667
Lake Worth Lantana	2.		S. Lake Worth In. .396	"	20.798
South Bay, Belle Glade	3.	S.W.P.B.C. Hosp. Dist. 4.250	Port of P.B. Dist. 1.265	"	25.917
Pahokee	4.	N.W.P.B.C. Hosp. Dist. 4.250	Port of P.B. Dist. 1.265	"	25.917
Southwest County	5.	S.W.P.B.C. Hosp. Dist. 4.250		"	24.652
Northwest County	6.	N.W.P.B.C. Hosp. Dist. 4.250		"	24.652
Jupiter	7.		Jupiter Inlet 1.00	"	21.402
West of Jupiter	8.			"	20.402
Northwest County	9.	N.W.P.B.C. Hosp. Dist. 4.250		"	24.652
Boynton Beach	10.	S.E.P.B.C. Hosp. Dist. 1.760	S. Lake Worth In. .396	"	22.558
Delray Beach, Boca Raton	11.	S.E.P.B.C. Hosp. Dist. 1.760		"	22.162
Southeast County	12.			"	20.402

CHAPTER V

Public Works and Services

As required by State law, the County Engineer is a registered professional engineer employed by the County Commission. Under the Commission's direction and policies he supervises the Road and Bridge, Surveys, Engineering Design, Right of Way, Zoning, Parks, Airports, Purchasing and Mosquito Control Departments; administers county road, bridge and building contracts; monitors subdivision development, and coordinates technical matters with the State Road Department and other governmental agencies.

County
Engineer

The Road and Bridge Department constructs and maintains county roads and bridges, maintains the county's transportation and construction equipment, and operates the county stockade and convict labor force.

Roads and
Bridges

The Surveys Department makes road, bridge and park surveys in connection with the county's work.

Surveys

The Engineering Design Department prepares plans and specifications for road, bridge and park construction done both by contract and by county employees.

Engineering
Design

The Zoning Department administers the county zoning regulations, and building, plumbing and electrical codes, and provides administrative support for the County Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, and Contractors Examining Boards, all of which are appointive boards.

Zoning

A three-member staff assembles, organizes and issues information required by industries considering locations in the county. Data available: tax assessments, bonded indebtedness, police and fire protection, utility rates, insurance and financing, zoning and building codes, transportation, communication, population and employment information.

Industrial
Information
Service

The Parks Department constructs, improves, maintains and operates the county's parks, boat ramps, nurseries and recreational facilities, and landscapes and maintains the grounds of county buildings.

Parks

The Airports Department maintains and operates the county airports, which include Palm Beach International Airport with maximum runway length of 8,000 feet, Lan-

Airports

tana Airport with a 3,500-foot runway, and Pahokee Airport with maximum runway length of 4,500 feet.

Purchasing

The Purchasing Department purchases all equipment, supplies and materials needed by the County Commission's departments, and does much of the purchasing for other county offices and agencies, all in accordance with the bidding procedures required by law. Any purchase in an amount of \$1,000 or more necessitates bids, advertising, specifications and acceptance of the lowest responsible bidder.

Mosquito Control

The Mosquito Control Department eliminates mosquitoes, flies and various insects, rodents and aquatic weeds. This department also operates the county garbage disposal program.

Agricultural Extension Services

Other county services include Agricultural Extension programs supervised by the University of Florida Agricultural Extension Service. Offices are located at the Mounts Agricultural Center in West Palm Beach. An assistant agent and secretary serve at the branch office in the Everglades area. The agricultural agents assist with problems of expanding urban development, farm management and 4-H youth activities. Home Demonstration agents are concerned with homemaking skills, family living and the 4-H program for girls.

Civil Defense

The Civil Defense Department is under the supervision of a director employed by the County Commission. The assistant director of operations, the communication coordinator and the secretary are employees of the county under the State Merit System and are paid partially with federal funds. The department functions mainly as an information service and has worked closely with the Adult Education Department in its course of study, "Personal Survival in Disaster."

Veterans Service

Four county employees, recommended by veterans' organizations, file claims with the Veterans Administration on behalf of veterans and their families.

CHAPTER VI

Administration of Justice

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Sheriff, the chief law enforcement officer in the county, is elected for a four-year term. His powers and duties include: apprehension and arrest of violators of criminal laws; execution of all processes of the courts and the County Commission; preservation of peace and suppression of riots and unlawful assemblies; administration of the county jail. The Governor of the State exercises general supervision over the Sheriff to insure enforcement of State laws and has the power to suspend the Sheriff or any other elected official subject to the approval of the State Senate.

Sheriff

Powers and Duties

The Sheriff's budget is submitted to the County Commission. Funds are provided from the general revenue and from fees (fixed by State law) collected by the Sheriff's office. These fees are remitted each month to the County Commission, which, in turn, distributes the allocated funds to the Sheriff's office on a monthly basis.

Budget

The Sheriff's Department employs approximately 100 persons and operates 45 motor vehicles (including private vehicles on a mileage basis) and four patrol boats. A crime laboratory is maintained at the county jail and the department has access to the facilities of the Florida Sheriff's Bureau in Tallahassee and those of the F.B.I.

Facilities

The State Attorney, the prosecutor for the Circuit Court, is an elected officer. He is elected by the 15th Judicial District, comprised of Palm Beach and Broward Counties, for a four-year term. All capital cases within the Circuit Court are prosecuted by the State Attorney and he may bring criminal charges upon indictment by the grand jury. He also advises the grand jury and examines witnesses when requested. Assistant state attorneys are appointed by the Governor.

State Attorney

The County Solicitor is elected for a four-year term and serves as prosecutor for the Criminal Court of Record. He prosecutes all offenses which are under the jurisdiction of this court and also acts on indictments returned by the grand jury except capital crimes.

County Solicitor

Highway Patrol

The Highway Patrol, the State arm under the Department of Public Safety, polices highways and enforces all laws relating to the operation of motor vehicles. The officers of the 35 local police departments in the county enforce municipal ordinances and cooperate with the Sheriff's Department and the Highway Patrol.

COURTS

Judges

Palm Beach County is served by seven courts, as shown in the following chart. The circuit judges are elected for six years and the other six judges serve four-year terms.

The Circuit Court and the County Judge's Court are constitutionally established and the other courts are created by statute to serve special county needs. Incorporated areas have municipal courts, authorized by city charters, to deal with violations of city ordinances.

COURTS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

COURT	JURISDICTION		JUDGE Number
	Civil	Criminal	
Circuit Court	Equity of \$1000 and up	Capital offenses	11 in Circuit (5 in Palm Beach 6 in Broward)
County Judge's Court	Probate and Incompetency	None	1
County Court	Equity up to \$500	None	1
Criminal Court of Record	None	All except capital offenses	2
Juvenile and Domestic Relations	Support for minor children and mothers (in certain cases)	Children under 17 years of age	1
Small Claims	Up to \$1000	None	2
Magistrate's	None	Traffic cases and misdemeanors	1
Municipal	None	Violations of municipal ordinances	Determined by Charter

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, who also serves as Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, is an elected officer. He keeps all court records, collects filing fees and issues processes on judgments.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

The Clerk of the Criminal Court of Record is elected for four years, keeps records, collects fees and acts also as Clerk of the County Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

Clerk of the Criminal Court Of Record

A list of persons qualified to serve as jurors is compiled each year by a two-member Jury Commission appointed by the Governor. Any male registered voter is qualified to act as a juror. However, women who wish jury duty must register with the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the County Courthouse. After the list is certified by a circuit judge, the names are placed in the jury box from which both grand and petit juries are drawn. Persons over 65 years of age or physically disabled are exempt, and those convicted of felonies or not of sound mind cannot serve as jurors. Jurors are paid \$5.00 per day and a modest mileage allowance.

Jury Duty

The County Grand Jury convenes twice a year and is subject to recall by special request of the State Attorney. It consists of eighteen members and twelve of them must agree before an indictment is returned. The Grand Jury is concerned with the examination of evidence and determines if there is sufficient cause for indictment.

Grand Jury

A petit jury must consist of twelve members in capital and condemnation cases. In all other civil and criminal cases, juries of six members are used.

Petit Jury

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

The Sheriff administers the county jail, where persons convicted of misdemeanors and felonies serve their terms and where adults awaiting trial are detained. The jail has a separate area for women but no separate facilities for youthful or first offenders, alcoholics or defectives. The capacity of the county jail is 245 persons.

County Jail

The Road and Bridge Department, under the supervision of the State Prison Board, maintains the work stockade. The stockade houses approximately 60 male prisoners who work on county road projects.

Work Stockade

**Juvenile
Detention
Facilities**

There are three separate facilities for juveniles in the county supervised by the Board of Visitors which is appointed by the Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court with the approval of the County Commission. The Juvenile Detention Center houses boys pending disposition of their cases by the Juvenile Court. Two county detention homes, one white and one Negro, are maintained for correction and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Girls awaiting court action are placed in one of the homes. Juveniles convicted of serious crimes are sent to state institutions.

Counselors

A chief juvenile court counselor and eleven assistants selected through the State Merit System aid the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Family investigations, counseling and pre-sentence reports are provided by the staff which also serves as probation officers.

**Probation
and Parole**

The Florida Parole Commission maintains an office in the county and employs four parole supervisors, who are paid by the county. Their duties include: parole and probation investigations; recommendations to the Parole Commission and to the courts in criminal cases; supervision and guidance of parolees and probationers.

**Director of
Public Health
and Welfare**

Both the Health and Welfare Departments of Palm Beach County are under the supervision of one Director, who is a qualified physician. The Director is appointed by the County Commission with the approval of the State Board of Health. He administers state health laws, is responsible for the control and prevention of diseases, registration of births and deaths, and cooperates with private and governmental agencies on special projects.

**Location
of Offices**

The personnel of both the Health and Welfare Departments are employed within the regulations of the State Merit System. The main office is located at 826 Evernia St., West Palm Beach. The Health Department has branch offices in Belle Glade, Pahokee and Delray Beach. The Welfare Department has branch offices in Delray Beach and the Glades Office Building.

CHAPTER VII**Public Health and Welfare**

**County
Health
Department**

The Director and 75 staff members of the health unit are responsible for planning and executing public health programs. The basic operating expenses are provided from the county's general revenue funds. The Board of Public Instruction pays for the school nursing services. State and federal funds are contributed for specific programs, and private agencies pay for certain services. Fees are collected for birth, death and food-handler certificates.

The Engineering and Sanitation Division and Veterinary Division are responsible for enforcing the sanitation laws of the state and the county. Duties include: dairy inspections; food sanitation; supervision of public water supplies; inspection of sewage disposal facilities; enforcement of health regulations for schools, nursing homes, public swimming pools, trailer parks and migrant labor camps.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics makes photostatic copies of all birth and death certificates and files the originals with the state office in Jacksonville. Hospitals, midwives, funeral directors and attending physicians must file certificates. The bureau also records certain diseases and other data for research purposes.

The staff of 25 registered professional nurses trained in public health nursing conduct a generalized nursing program. This program includes health education, maternal and child health, communicable disease control, mental health, school health and chronic disease control.

The following clinical services, primarily for indigents, are provided by the county: immunization, detection and treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease, food-handlers instruction, prenatal and well-baby care, and dental care. There are also clinics operated with the aid of other agencies and private groups for the detection and treatment of tumors, heart disease, blindness, diabetes and diseases of old age. Also included in this group are the guidance and mental health and crippled children's clinics.

The Palm Beach County Welfare Department staff provides temporary and emergency aid for indigent legal residents. If an indigent is not a resident of Palm Beach County for one year, the department is authorized under certain circumstances to return him to his legal residence. If he has no legal residence, he is referred to private

Sanitation

**Bureau
of Vital
Statistics**

**Public
Health
Nursing**

Clinics

**County
Welfare
Department**

groups such as fraternal, religious or community service agencies.

Source of Funds

The funds for welfare services are derived from county, state and federal sources. The state pays old age assistance, aid to the blind, aid to dependent children, aid to the disabled, the first 30 days of hospitalization for recipients of these four types of assistance, and the Crippled Children's Commission costs. The county general revenue provides the funds for other welfare services including a general assistance program and an indigent patient aid program.

County Physician

The County Physician and staff nurses, employed by the County Commission, serve at the medical clinics. The County Physician cares for patients at the County Home and Hospital.

Referrals

The Welfare Department is responsible for determining, according to Florida welfare standards, the eligibility of indigents for public health and welfare services, as well as the many private services. This includes admissions to the County Home and Hospital, clinics, nursing homes, hospitals and State tuberculosis and mental hospitals.

County Home and Hospital

Indigent residents may be admitted to the county owned and operated hospital. This institution is classified as a nursing home as there are no surgical facilities on the premises. The superintendent is appointed by the Director of Public Health and Welfare with the approval of the County Commission. The staff provides care for a maximum of 175 patients. The cost of care of indigent patients in the seven other hospitals located in the county is reimbursed by the county and state according to a specified rate. Care in private nursing homes for the indigent patient is provided for in the same manner.

Child Welfare

Child Welfare is handled primarily by the State Department of Public Welfare. There are no orphan homes in the county. All child care is provided by foster families who are paid a monthly allowance and medical expenses. Adoptions are arranged by the State Department of Public Welfare and the circuit courts. The juvenile detention facilities are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Special services for exceptional children are provided by the Board of Public Instruction. (See Chapter VIII — Education.)

CHAPTER VIII

Education

The general control of public schools and regulation of parochial and private schools is vested in the State Board of Education, which is made up of the following elected state officers: the Governor, who serves as President of the Board; the Secretary of State; the Attorney General; the State Treasurer and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who is the executive secretary of the State Board of Education. The Superintendent of Public Instruction directs the Department of Education which is responsible for school accreditation, teacher certification, instructional, vocational and other services.

State Board of Education

The Palm Beach County Board of Public Instruction is composed of five members, one from each of the five county districts, elected on a county-wide basis for four-year terms. Each member receives a salary of \$3,000 a year. In addition to fulfilling the requirements of the State Minimum Foundation Program, the Board of Public Instruction determines the policies and standards for the public schools. The board employs all school personnel, controls school properties, adopts the curriculum and provides instructional aids including textbooks.

County Board of Public Instruction

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is a salaried officer elected for four years. He is responsible for carrying out the policies of the Board of Public Instruction, suggests measures to insure adequate educational and plant facilities and recommends the appointment of principals and members of the instructional staff.

County Super- intendent of Public Instruction

The three non-salaried trustees are elected for two-year terms. The trustees examine the annual school budget, approve the public use of school buildings and nominate principals and teachers to the Board of Public Instruction upon recommendation of the County Superintendent.

Trustees

The Minimum Foundation Program, in existence since 1947, provides the major part of state funds. Total Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) support is arrived at by the State Legislature by calculating the cost of providing minimum educational opportunities considered reasonable and essential. The allocation to the individual county is measured by the average daily attendance, less the

Minimum Foundation Program

minimum financial effort required of that county. To receive the MFP support, the county must fulfill certain standards including: 180 school days a year; records and reports prescribed in MFP; employment regulations and salary schedules; required minimum financial effort. Minimum financial effort is based upon an index of tax-paying ability and varies according to the wealth of the county.

Local Taxation

Palm Beach County receives 65.91% of the cost of education **under the Minimum Foundation Program** from the state. However, since many services provided in Palm Beach County are above the minimum requirements, these are financed by the county. Thus the state pays only about one-third of the **total** cost of education in Palm Beach County. County funds are derived primarily from property taxes. Under constitutional provisions, millage of property up to 20 mills (\$20 per \$1,000 valuation) may be levied for the schools; up to 10 mills by the county school board and up to an additional 10 mills voted by the electorate in the biennial trustee-millage election.

Construction Funds

New construction is financed through the above millage, by the state through the Minimum Foundation Program, School Capital Outlay Amendment and Matched Building Fund Act. In addition, the sale of bonds may be approved in a freeholders' election. Any millage necessary to pay bonded indebtedness and interest resulting from such election may be above the (combined) 20-mill constitutional limit.

Budget

The school budget for the year 1961-1962 is \$23,625,-263. Approximately 45% of this figure (\$10,744,188) is from property taxes. The remainder is from state sources as listed above, bond funds, investments, excess fees and forwarded balances. The largest expenditure in the budget is \$11,657,088 for instructional salaries, of which \$9,800,503 was spent for teachers' salaries.

Teaching Staff

There are 1,856 teachers, including special teachers and principals, serving on the staffs of the elementary, junior and senior high schools. The two junior colleges in the county have 117 teachers and administrators. Teachers' salaries are based on college degrees earned and years of tenure. The salary schedule ranges from a minimum of \$4300 to the maximum of \$7350. Six in-

structural supervisors aid the teachers in the primary and secondary schools.

In September, 1961, the number of pupils registered in grades one through twelve totalled 43,596. The enrollment of the junior colleges was 1,901.

Enrollment

At present there are 84 elementary, junior and senior high schools. The county has one vocational school and one ungraded school at the County Children's Home. The two junior colleges are Palm Beach Junior College in Lake Worth and Roosevelt Junior College in West Palm Beach.

School Buildings

The guidance department, directed by one of the supervisors, conducts an extensive testing program and supervises and trains the guidance counselors assigned to junior and senior high schools.

Guidance Facilities

The Board of Public Instruction maintains a program for exceptional children. The types of children served are the blind, deaf, the physically handicapped, the emotionally disturbed, the retarded, those having speech difficulties and those having reading disabilities. These services are provided through a special school, special rooms, and itinerant services including speech, clinic, hospital and home teaching.

Exceptional Children



Directory of Palm Beach County Offices

		Telephone
COUNTY COURT HOUSE	350 N. Dixie Ave.	TE 2-1671
Accounting	Law Library	
Board of County Commissioners	Occupation and Beverage Bureau	
Circuit Court	Probation and Parole	
Criminal Court	Small Claims Court	
Engineer, County	Solicitor, County	
Judge, County	State Attorney	
Licenses — Marriage, Fishing	Tax Assessor	
Hunting	Tax Collector	
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING	810 Datura St.	TE 2-1671
Auto License Bureau	Juvenile Department	
Building Permits	Voting Registration	
Drivers License	Zoning Board	
Industrial Information Service		
CONGRESS AVENUE OFFICE BUILDING	2030 S. Congress Ave.	JU 5-7526
Mosquito Control Dept.		
Parks Department		
Roads and Bridges		
PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		
Entrance off Belvedere near Congress Ave.		
Airports, Dept. of	Building S-1362	683-5722
Civil Defense	Building S-1134	OV 3-0880
Purchasing Dept.	Building S-1505	683-1336
AND —		
Board of Public Instruction	301 N. Olive Ave.	TE 2-4102
Health and Welfare Dept.	826 Evernia St.	TE 2-2441
Agriculture Agent	531 N. Military Trail	OV 3-1777
County Home and Hospital	1200 45th St.	VI 4-1321
Jail, County	425 1st St.	TE 2-8115
Port of Palm Beach	Port Road, Riviera Beach	VI 4-0281

MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Board of County Commissioners

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 10:30 A.M.

Board of Public Instruction

1st Wednesday after the 1st Tuesday of each month at 2:00 P.M.
Extra meetings occasionally — usually on Wednesdays at 2:00 P.M.

Board of Commissioners — Port of Palm Beach

Ordinarily every Friday at 2:00 P.M.

Directory - Continued

		Telephone
GLADES OFFICE BUILDING		
U.S. 441 between Pahokee and Belle Glade		WY 6-5511
Agriculture Dept.	WY 6-5511	Juvenile-Domestic Relations Court WY 6-5511
Building and Zoning Dept.	WY 6-5511	Sheriff Sub-Station No. 1 WY 6-2074
Clerk of Circuit Court	WY 6-5511	Small Claims Court WY 6-5511
County Commissioner District 5	WY 6-5511 Pahokee 924-2661	Supervisor of Registration WY 6-5511
County Judge's Office	WY 6-5511	Tax Collector WY 6-5511 Automobile Licenses
Drivers' Licenses		Boat Registrations
Fishing Licenses		Occupational Licenses
Marriage Licenses		
Judge Magistrate Court	WY 6-5511	Welfare Dept. WY 6-5511

ADDITIONAL MISCELLANEOUS COUNTY OFFICES

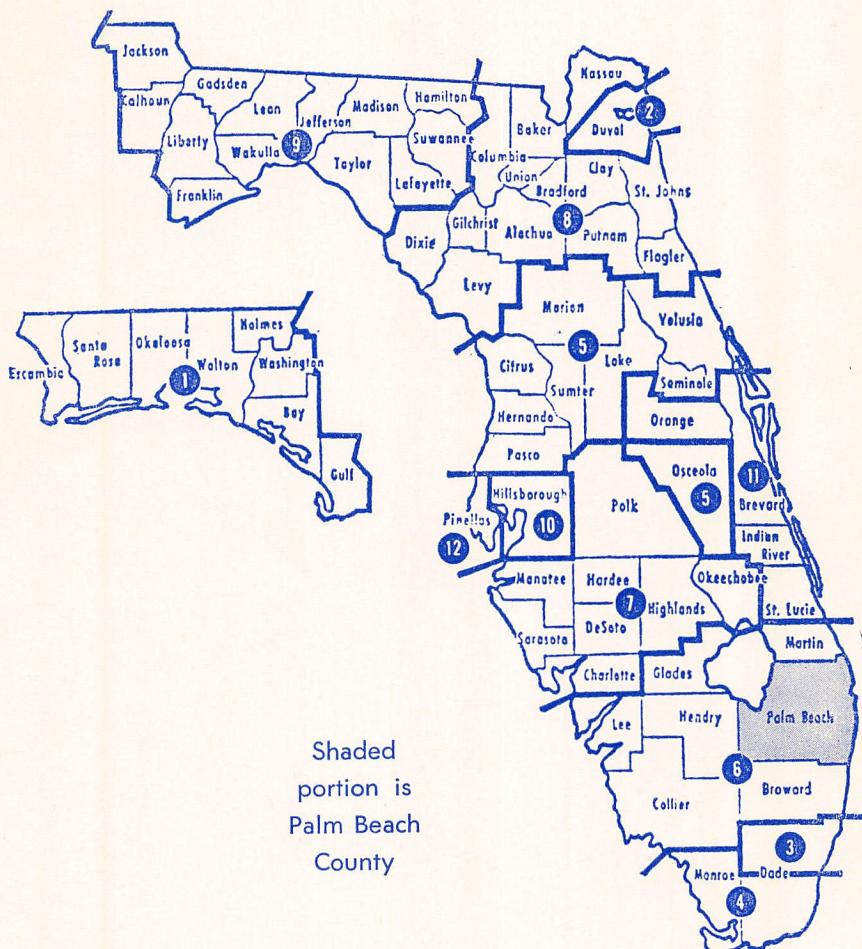
Palm Beach County Health Dept.	1024 N.W. Avenue D, Belle Glade	WY 6-5219
Palm Beach County Health Dept.	1759 E. Main St., Pahokee	924-7151
Veterans Service Officer	Sanders Bldg., Belle Glade City Hall, Pahokee	WY 6-2570 924-5557

Correction: On Page 15, third paragraph, change "two-member Jury Commission" to "three-member Jury Commission."

NEW MILLAGE RATES. Millage rates on Page 10 are for the fiscal year 1961-62. At the time of the second printing of this booklet (Sept. 1962) the 1962-63 millages are available. There are some changes, but they are very slight. A tax pamphlet entitled "Your Property Taxes for 1962-63" will be available Oct. 1 at the County Court House.

MEMORANDA

FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AND COUNTIES



This Is The League of Women Voters

During this year of 1962, 132,000 members of the League of Women Voters in 1155 local communities in 50 states are studying questions of public interest. Their subjects may be foreign trade, revision of state constitutions, the public school system, county or city government, or a better park and recreation plan for their town.

A one or two year study finally brings League members to a position on their subject — a "consensus." Then they call public meetings, organize forums or debates, issue publicity, or appear before local groups to explain their position, and urge citizen action. Always their objective is to inform the public concerning the issues of the day, so that citizens will be able to vote more intelligently.

Leagues are known for their careful compilation of facts and non-partisan objectivity. As one United States Senator in discussing the League recently put it: "The voter seldom has time or the incentive to see both sides of a question. He needs non-partisan groups he can turn to with the assurance that he is getting non-partisan information."

Local Leagues also offer continuing service to voters: they hold non-partisan candidates meetings to discuss issues, provide information on registration and election procedures, distribute thousands of pieces of literature and conduct campaigns to "get out the vote."

In addition to all this local and state activity, the national League, in the last two years, distributed 790,284 pieces of educational literature on governmental affairs — both books and pamphlets. Thus the League tries to bring the people closer to their government.

League work is financed entirely on the local level, through membership dues and non-member contributions. National and state League organizations receive their support from the local Leagues.

"Women are drawn to the League of Women Voters because they get new knowledge, new skills, new associations," says the national League president, Mrs. Robert Phillips.

All women citizens of voting age are eligible for membership. We invite you to join us.

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